

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 21, 2013

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance-

Public comment regarding the potential purchase of 48 Norfield Road by the Town of Weston- Comments were made by Robert Schaaf; Namuk Cho; Jeff Mera; Julie Sidhu; Margaret Wirtenberg; Ray Rauth; Frank Billone; Helen de Keijzer; Christine Lomuscio; Robert Ferguson; Mark Harper; Lucy Bowden; Richard Frisch.

The sense of the comments was that most people were positive about the purchase of the house but they would like to know what the real cost with improvements would be, as well as an overall plan for what we are going to do with the building.

Ms. Weinstein went through the process and explained that the next step would be for requesting an 8-24 referral from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Discussion/Decision regarding submitting an 8-24 request to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the potential purchase of 48 Norfield Rd. Mr. Muller said he strongly supports moving forward with this. It's an opportunity to take advantage of market conditions and the location of a property is such that it would create a smooth and advantageous strip from the library around to Town Center, and allow for the potential addition of sidewalks up through the school.

Mr. Tracey said he was somewhat troubled by this proposal initially. He doesn't like the idea of buying property just because it's available. He doesn't like the idea of making an investment without knowing what the total cost is or what the use is of it. He wouldn't support moving forward until we were completely comfortable with it. He does buy into the comments that this is a unique opportunity that won't come around again and if we pass on it we're going to have a chunk taken out of our public space. Once they have the full information he can see himself getting comfortable with it.

Ms. Weinstein said we can always decide at any time along the way, until we close the deal with the bank, not to go through with it. Her concern is if we don't go forward with the 8-24, we would not be allowing the public the opportunity to decide if they want to purchase the property. The 8-24 process does take some time.

Mr. Tracey moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the First Selectman to submit an 8-24 referral to request to Planning and Zoning regarding the potential purchase of 48 Norfield Road. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding the WestonArts fundraising event- Sue Broudy said she a member of the Board of Directors of the WestonArts organization. They are a 501(c)3 and their mission is to give away money to students and adults as scholarships and grants. On Saturday April 27th WestonArts is having a Fundraising Event that involved the entire community. It will encompass visual arts, concert, music, performance and dance. It will start on April 15th with a visual arts display in the library community room and will end on April 27th at the Grand Terrace Hall of St. Francis church. All proceeds go back to WestonArts.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Michelle Fracasso to the Lachat Oversight Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Michelle has been farming in Weston for the past few years and sells her produce to a lot of local, organic and sustainable restaurants in Westport and in New York City. She was asked if she would consider joining and lending her expertise to the Lachat Oversight Committee and she would be delighted to do so.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the appointment of Michelle Fracasso to the Lachat Oversight Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the Firearms ordinance- Mr. Tracey said what we have to confront is the question on residential target practice and do we want to ban that all together in Town. Without more of an understanding of the situation he is not prepared to make a decision on that. At a minimum he would like to publicize the question and have public input before we make a decision. Both Ms. Weinstein and Mr. Muller agreed with Mr. Tracey.

Ms. Weinstein said she will continue conversations with Chief Troxell and Town Attorney and bring it back to the Selectmen at the next meeting and start the process again.

Request for property tax refunds:

Peter Atkins	\$12,886.73
Lorraine Riley	\$12,054.99
Morton Schindel	\$4,804.00
Lawrence & Deborah Rehr	\$118.20
Gregg L. Haythorn	\$799.87
Michael Harmann	\$496.52
John C. or Marilyn E. Kirchner	\$33.63
V.W. Credit	\$1,190.32
Mercedes Benz Financial	<u>\$741.02</u>
Total	\$33,125.28

Mr. Muller moved that we approve property tax refunds in \$33,125.28 as outlined in the Weston Board of Selectmen's agenda of March 21, 2013. Mt. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- We received a police grant for \$14,470 for police video equipment. The purpose is to record interrogations which is a new state mandate. We received 100% of what was allocated for the cost of the equipment.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting.

Ms. Weinstein moved to add a discussion/decision regarding the nomination of an alternate moderator for the Annual Town Budget Meeting that's scheduled for April 24, 2013. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein nominated Susan Moch. Mr. Tracey moved to nominate Susan Moch as the alternate moderator for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on April 24, 2013. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein moved to add to the agenda a discussion/decision regarding the ballot questions for the Town of Weston ballot vote. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

According to the new charter the Board of Selectmen need to make a decision as to whether we want to add to the ballot questions that if someone rejects the budget whether we want to state because the budget is too high or too low. Do we go with the same questions as last year or do we add the second piece with an option to say if you're not approving the budget because it is too high or too low.

Question 1: Shall the Town Operation budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as determined by the Annual Town Budget Meeting be approved yes or no

Question 2: Shall the Board of Education Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as determined by the Annual Town Budget Meeting be approved yes or no

Question 3: Shall the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as determined by the Annual Town Budget Meeting be approved yes or no.

Mr. Tracey moved that the ballot questions be posed to the ATBM in the form just stated by the First Selectman. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein moved to add to the agenda changing the time of the April 4, 2013 meeting. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Weinstein said that she is proposing to change the time of our meeting from 7:30 to 7:00pm because Board of Finance is doing the budget deliberation that same night. They have set the time of their meeting at 8:00pm so that we can have our meeting and still attend their meeting at 8:00pm.

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Mr. Tracey moved to approve the change of the time for the April 4, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At this point Mr. Muller had to hang up but said he was casting a yes vote for the minutes.

Discussion/approval of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of February 7, 2013 and Special Board of Selectmen's meeting for February 25 and 27, 2013.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's February 7th meeting and February 27th meeting and the Board of Selectmen's special February 25th, 2013 meeting. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:45pm Mr. Tracey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Weinstein seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant.
Approved 4/4/13